



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename the bridge at Indiana State Road 46 that spans the East Fork of the White River and serves as a gateway to downtown Columbus the Robert N. Stewart bridge.

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**Smith M**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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2013

HC 1035/DI 84+



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename the bridge on Indiana State Road 46 that spans the East Fork of the White River and serves as a gateway to downtown Columbus the Robert N. Stewart bridge.

*Whereas, Robert N. Stewart, a Bartholomew County native, served three consecutive terms as mayor of Columbus during which the city underwent a major transformation;*

*Whereas, Governance and politics have been a constant thread running through the life of Robert N. Stewart;*

*Whereas, Robert N. Stewart guided the city through economic development initiatives and the development of public-private partnerships;*

*Whereas, The multi-cabled bridge to be named after Robert N. Stewart was one of the integral elements of a mammoth civic undertaking in the 1990s that came to be known as the Front Door Project, which opened the area for a tremendous wave of business development, and led to the development of a city entrance from Indiana State Road 46 West and Interstate 65 that better defined a city that had become renowned for architectural excellence;*

*Whereas, Working with executives from major corporations in the city and other business leaders, Robert N. Stewart created Focus 2000, an enabling organization dedicated to developing and encouraging initiatives for the betterment of Columbus, and instrumental in such developments as the city playing host to the 1992 Farm Progress Show, the creation*



*and support of a community-wide substance abuse support group, the \$11 million expansion and beautification of a downtown park, the creation and nurturing of a healthy arts community, and the naming of the city as an All-America City in 1994;*

*Whereas, A program launched under the leadership of Robert N. Stewart led to the creation of more than 10,000 new jobs through the attraction of new companies and the encouraged expansion of long established businesses;*

*Whereas, At the urging of his wife Barbara, Robert N. Stewart created Ethnic Expo, an event that has annually drawn tens of thousands of visitors to the downtown and has served as an outreach to the growing number of ethnic groups that have moved to Columbus;*

*Whereas, While in office, Mayor Stewart cultivated relationships with international companies in an effort to bring new businesses to Columbus;*

*Whereas, Due to his effort, today Columbus is home to 18 Japanese companies, giving the city the largest concentration of Japanese firms in any Indiana community;*

*Whereas, During his record-breaking three terms in office (1983-1995), Mayor Stewart presided over a literal transformation of the city of Columbus that touched on several facets of community life;*

*Whereas, Robert N. Stewart has been recognized for his many accomplishments with the establishment by the arts community of a scholarship in his and his wife Barbara's names, the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce presented him with the Community Service Award, and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns gave him the Russell G. Lloyd Distinguished Service award, the highest honor bestowed upon a government official in the state;*

*Whereas, Robert N. Stewart took time from his business to serve as chairman of the Bartholomew County Republican party and was elected chairman of the Indiana State Republican party in the early 1960s;*



*Whereas, It is important there be something to make current and future residents aware of Robert N. Stewart's role in fashioning the city they call home; and*

*Whereas, It is, therefore, fitting that the bridge on Indiana State Road 46 that spans the East Fork of the White River and serves as a gateway to downtown Columbus bear the name of Robert N. Stewart: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*

- 1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly, in recognition of
- 2       the many accomplishments and contributions of Robert N. Stewart,
- 3       urges the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename the bridge
- 4       on Indiana State Road 46 that spans the East Fork of the White River
- 5       and serves as a gateway to downtown Columbus the Robert N. Stewart
- 6       bridge.
- 7       SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 8       Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner
- 9       of the Indiana Department of Transportation and Robert N. Stewart.

